

Summary of DSS

The Defense Security Service (DSS) was established in 1972 under the name of the Defense Investigative Service (DIS) to provide a single, centrally-directed service within the Department of Defense (DoD) for conducting Personnel Security Investigations (PSIs). In 1981, the DIS mission was expanded when the Industrial Security Program (ISP) was integrated into the agency. In November 1997, DoD Reform Initiative #2 redesignated DIS as the Defense Security Service (DSS) in recognition of its broader mission and functions.

Currently, DSS has three primary missions: the Personnel Security Investigations Program (PSI); the Industrial Security Program (ISP); and the Security Education, Training, and Awareness Program.

The DSS organizational structure consists of approximately 1,200 Special Agents located throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. DSS Special Agents conduct PSIs on DoD military, civilian and contractor personnel, and employees of other organizations performing research and development for DoD.

There are also approximately 200 DSS Industrial Security (IS) Representatives located in offices throughout the United States; in Brussels, Belgium; and in Mannheim, Germany. The principal role of the IS Representative is to provide oversight of and advice and assistance to facilities in private industry that maintain classified material or information. IS Representatives assist the organization's management staff and Facility Security Officer (FSO) in formulating threat-appropriate, cost-effective security countermeasures to protect classified information and to detect or neutralize foreign technology collection activities that target U.S. defense technology.

The Character of a DSS Employee

DSS employees must meet the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. In order to meet these requirements while performing their duties, DSS employees must be:

- Dedicated to the accomplishment of the DSS mission;
- Fair and impartial;
- Courteous to people from all origins and backgrounds.

The Personnel Security Investigations Program

DSS conducts more than 150,000 PSIs annually, which are used by DoD adjudicative facilities to determine an individual's suitability to enter the armed forces, access classified information, or hold a sensitive position within DoD.

A PSI is an inquiry into an individual's loyalty, character, trustworthiness, reliability, honesty, and financial responsibility to ensure that he or she is eligible for access to national security information.

A PSI generally includes the following:

- A search of investigative files, indices, and other records held by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), other federal agencies, and, if appropriate, overseas countries.
- A credit check.
- Personal interviews of references, including co-workers, employers, friends, educators, neighbors and other individuals, as appropriate.
- Records checks, such as employment, courts, and housing rental offices, etc., as appropriate.

- Contact with local law enforcement agencies at the state and municipal levels for arrest and/or conviction information.

- A personal interview with the Subject of the investigation.

The Industrial Security Program

The Industrial Security Program includes the Defense portion of the National Industrial Security Program (NISP); the Arms, Ammunition and Explosives (AA&E) Program; and the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Program.

The National Industrial Security Program (NISP) was established to ensure that private industry and colleges/universities properly safeguard classified information in their possession while performing on U.S. or foreign government classified contracts or research and development.

The AA&E Program provides protection for conventional arms, ammunition and explosives in the custody of DoD contractors.

The CIP provides for the protection and assurance of Department of Defense (DoD) Critical Assets and Infrastructures in the private sector, throughout the world, to support national security preparedness responsibilities during peace, crisis, and war.

Security, Education, Training & Awareness Program

The DSS Academy (DSSA), located in Linthicum, MD, is responsible for providing security education, training, and awareness programs to DoD agencies, military departments, contractors and DSS. The Academy has three major curriculum areas: Information Security, Industrial Security, and Personnel Security. In addition, the DSSA is

responsible for the DoD Security Awareness mission. Resident courses include the following:

- Information Security Management & Orientation
- Classification Management
- Risk Management for DoD Security Programs
- Personnel Security Management
- Basic and Advanced Courses on DoD Personnel Security Adjudications
- FSO Program Management
- AIS Security Procedures for Industry
- International Programs Security Requirements
- Security for Special Access Programs
- Special Access Programs Orientation

Counterintelligence Office

The DSS CI office is responsible for the integration of CI into the missions of the agency. CI specialists are assigned at various locations throughout the U.S. to support the following objectives:

- Provide for early detection and referral of potential espionage cases through Security Education Awareness Briefings
- Provide a threat appropriate basis for industrial security countermeasures
- Infuse CI experience and knowledge throughout the DSS workforce
- Assist cleared contractors in recognizing and reporting suspected foreign intelligence collection attempts

The DSS CI Office works closely with the military departments and national agencies, such as the FBI, in the development and referral of CI issues detected during the course of a PSI, advice and assistance visits or security reviews in cleared facilities under the NISP.

Personnel Investigations Center (PIC)

The PIC is responsible for:

- Processing (opening, monitoring, and closing) all PSIs, and forwarding final investigative report known as the Report for Adjudication to the appropriate DoD adjudicative facility.
- Maintaining PSI files.

Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office (DISCO)

DISCO is responsible for:

- Processing, granting and maintaining personnel security clearances for individuals in industry.
- Processing and granting facility security clearances to industry.
- Processing outgoing international visits required under the NISP.

*To learn more about DSS,
visit our Web site:*

<http://www.dss.mil>



AN OVERVIEW OF THE DEFENSE SECURITY SERVICE

**Dedicated Professionals
Safeguarding America's Future**